

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Moore, Bernard-Stevens, Chambers, and Nelson.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. It is always fun to listen to Senator Chambers in his descriptive moods, and I will say, and somebody much wiser than I said this originally, art is in the eyes of the beholder, as we all well know. No one has really talked about the art and I do have a little knowledge so I just want to fill you in on that because I know there might be a technical problem on the actual funding. In the first place, many of the paintings...I was Chairman of the State Arts Council when the Nebraska art collection was originated...many of the paintings were donated by an individual from my district. I would like to remind you that art in the United States began in 1776, just like the rest of our country started, and painting and artwork in the United States is completely different than the old European masters because so much of it, and much of this is realistic. It is our lives in front of us, and if you don't like the painting, fine, that is your privilege. If you do, that is your privilege. But the museum, the Kearney Museum is really a jewel in the middle of the Platte Valley and I think it is a logical place for it, and I don't want people out in Kearney now to think that I approve of everything they want, but Kearney is more or less the center of the state, and it is a wonderful place for it, and I think the Post Office Building, Senator Kristensen, is actually...because it looks like a Louis Sullivan building to me, not Gothic, but it is a building worth keeping. Robert Henri or Henri, as a lot of people call him, yes, he is a Nebraska native from Cozad, and he went to New York when he was a young man and has paintings in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., along with other places. Leonard Thiessen, the Still Life from 1936, he was the originator and Chairman of the Nebraska Arts Council before it was ever funded by the state, a wonderful artist and a wonderful man who died, I think, a year or two ago. The other one, Untitled Glass, 1987, Ray Schultze, I am quite sure he is either from Kearney or Grand Island. One of the things that was done to add to this collection each year, and still would be each time there would be a Governor's Arts Award event, whatever the award was that year, and I happen to have one of them by Karen Kunz in my office, if anyone would like to see it, a wonderful artist from the University of Nebraska here at Lincoln. Each year, whatever the award was, that...another piece was produced to add to the